

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1295

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative William Baird on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative William Baird is one such distinguished public servant whose professionalism and proficiency will serve as a benchmark for future elected officials; his illustrious career in the House of Representatives, which began in 1998, will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 105th General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Baird has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 36th House District and his native Campbell County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1998, the good people of House District 36, composed of Campbell and Union counties, evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of William Baird by electing him as their member in the House of Representatives, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his five terms and ten years in the House of Representatives (101st through 105th General Assemblies), he has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Baird is a valuable participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he

has made as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, the House Conservation and Environment Committee, and the Sportsmen's Legislative Caucus; and

WHEREAS, he has also served with distinction as Vice Chairman of the House Environment Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, truly a Renaissance man, William Baird is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an accomplished businessman, realtor, and farmer; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative William Baird has generously donated his time and energies to many community, civic, professional, and governmental organizations; having participated in the inaugural class of Leadership Campbell County, he is also a member of the Campbell and Union Counties Chambers of Commerce and Concerned Citizens for a Better Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, William Baird is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Jamie Roehl Baird, who teaches at Jacksboro Elementary School; his son, Blake, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville who owns and operates his own delivery business; and his daughter, Keeling, who is also a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and is completing her third year of studies at the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, William Baird is an active member of the Jacksboro First Baptist Church, which he serves faithfully as a Deacon and choir member; and

WHEREAS, he has also served the congregation as the two-term Chairman of Deacons, Trustee, and a member of the Youth Committee, Usher Committee, Church Council, and Stewardship Committee; he was instrumental in the construction of the church's Family Life Center, education addition, children's park, and House of Hope, a domestic violence shelter sponsored by Jacksboro First Baptist Church, as a member of the steering committees for such projects; and

WHEREAS, Representative Baird is a gentleman whose outstanding tenure on Capitol Hill will seldom be equaled and whose retirement from the General Assembly will create a void that will not be easily filled; his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 36; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague,
Representative William Baird; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative William Baird on his meritorious service
to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly and commend him for his countless
contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 36 in general and
his native Campbell County in particular.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to William Baird our best wishes for much
success as he explores the greener pastures of county government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation to Representative William Baird as a token of our esteem.